European Parliament

2014 - 2019



Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance

COORDINATORS' MEETING

Tuesday, 15 May 2018 10.30 to 12.30 Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 1E-2

Brussels

Summary of Coordinators recommendations

Present:

Bureau: Petr Jezek (Chair)

Eva Joly (2nd Vice-Chair, also replacing the Greens'

Coordinator)

Ana Gomes (4th Vice-Chair)

Coordinators: Dariusz Rosati (EPP Coordinator)

Peter Simon (S&D Coordinator)
Nils Torvalds (ALDE Coordinator)
Martin Schirdewan (GUE Coordinator)
Mario Borghezio (ENF Coordinator)

Co-Rapporteurs: Luděk Niedermayer (EPP)

Jeppe Kofod (S&D)

A. Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

B. Chair's announcements

The scoreboard regards the state of implementation of as recommendations made by the European Parliament Dodds/Niedermayer, TAXE1, TAXE2 and PANA Reports is still under work. The Secretariat is continuing working on it and will circulate it once ready.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

C. Hearing of 15 May: state of play/ how to react to the absence of invited speakers?

The Chair was instructed to send a second invitation for the TAX3 hearing of 25 June to both the Bulgarian Presidency and the Code of Conduct Group's Chair. In addition, the Chair will send a letter to President Tajani to inform him about the situation.

D. Destinations of missions

In addition to the two missions (Washington and Isle of Man) already approved, the Coordinators agreed that the TAX3 Special Committee should organise a third mission to Latvia.

The Coordinators also agreed to postpone any decision on any possible further missions, in particular, as regards a possible mission to Malta, awaiting the outcome of the cooperation with LIBE as regards the follow-up actions to the recommendations included in the PANA/LIBE report of the mission to Malta (see item G).

E. Preliminary draft programme of the mission to Washington

The Coordinators took note of the preliminary draft programme of the mission, which is still pending the Conference of Presidents' authorisation.

F. Next Committee meetings:

The Coordinators endorsed the following preliminary draft programmes for the hearings of 7, 21, 25 and 28 June:

Workshop of Thursday 7 June - 14.00 to 17.30 - "Digitalisation and crypto currencies: new challenges and opportunities in terms of taxation and fight against money laundering"

- **Crypto-currencies** and blockchain: legal context and implications for financial crime, money laundering and tax evasion

- Impact of **digitalisation on international tax matters**: challenges and remedies
- If released by that time, presentation by the Commission of "Aggressive tax planning in the framework of the European Semester" (tbc)

Hearing of Thursday 21 June - 9.00 to 12.30 - "Lessons learnt from the Paradise Papers"

<u>First part</u>: Do the **Paradise Papers show loopholes in the EU legislation** or problems in cross border **cooperation** between Member States?

Panel of 3 speakers max, possibly including a journalist, an academic and a tax expert.

Second part: Alleged aggressive tax planning schemes within the EU

Maximum 4 multinationals/ intermediaries (Nike; Apple; Mc Donald's and Appleby)

Hearing of Monday 25 June - 15.00 to 18.30

<u>15.00 - 17.00</u>:

- Exchange of views with the Finance Minister of Bulgaria and Chair of the ECOFIN (tbc)
- Exchange of views with Ms Lapecorella, Chair of the Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation (tbc)

<u>17.00 - 18.30</u>: Exchange of views with Věra Jourová, Commissioner responsible for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality (confirmed)

Hearings of Thursday, 28 June - 9.00 to 12.30

<u>9.00 - 11.00</u>: Joint TAX3/TERR Hearing on The use of tax frauds - including VAT carousel fraud - to finance terrorism

Panel of 4 speakers max, possibly including a journalist, a law enforcement representative, an academic and an international institution.

11.00 - 12.30: TAX3 Hearing on VAT fraud

Panel of 4 speakers possibly including a VAT expert, a representative from a national and international institution and an academic

The final programmes will be agreed by the Coordinators in written procedure.

G. Framework of cooperation with the LIBE Committee as regards possible follow up actions to the recommendations included in the PANA/LIBE report of the mission to Malta

The Coordinators decided to wait for the outcome of the ongoing discussions within LIBE on this issue. They expressed their support for a strong cooperation with the LIBE Committee.

H. Indicative programme of hearings and workshops

The Coordinators endorsed the following indicative programme of hearings and workshops until the end of 2018.

| Date | Topic |
|---|--|
| Monday, 10 September 2018 19.30 - 21.30 (Strasbourg) | Digital taxation : how internet companies can avoid/evade tax and taxation of the digital economy (including the need to review a multitude of bilateral tax agreements with third countries) |
| | The French, German and Luxemburgish Finance Ministers will be invited. |
| | The third country dimension in the Fight against Tax crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance |
| Wednesday, 26 September 2018 15.00 - 18.30 | Panel 1: Risks in the field of tax policy associated with Brexit : |
| | - How Brexit will affect issues that already exist with tax and financial policy of certain British Crown Dependencies? |
| | - Possible solutions to the EU-UK tax relations in the context of Brexit |
| pending authorisation from EP President | Panel 2: |
| | - Lessons to be learned from other EU-third countries trade agreements (Norway, Switzerland,) |
| | How bilateral tax treaties can facilitate tax abuse and trade agreements facilitate illicit financial flows Impact on developing countries |
| Thursday, 27 September 2018 | Presentation of studies (Golden visas, |
| 14.00 - 17.30 | VAT fraud, shell companies and freeports) |

| Date | Topic |
|--|--|
| Thursday, 11 October 2018 9.00 - 12.30 | Presentation of one study (if hearing of 27 September is not sufficient) |
| | And |
| | Golden visas and other national schemes providing tax privileges (freeports, Special Economic Zones): impact on anti-money laundering and tax evasion rules |
| New slot Thursday, 21 November 2018 | Suggestions: - Alleged financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance in Slovakia and Malta |
| 9.00 - 12.30 | - Combatting Money laundering in the EU banking sector (follow-up) |
| Tuesday, 27 November 2018 15.00 - 18.30 | Exchange of views with one Commissioner (preferably Commissioner Vestager) on the state of implementation of the TAX1, TAX2, PANA and Dodds-Niedermayer reports |
| | + Consideration of draft report |
| Monday, 10 December 2018 19.30 - 21.30 (Strasbourg) | Exchange of views with 2 Commissioners (preferably Moscovici and Jourova) on the state of implementation of the TAX1, TAX2, PANA and Dodds-Niedermayer reports |

I. ENF Coordinator's request on the case of Mr. Muxtar Ablyazov

The Coordinators decided not to ask journalists to investigate the case of Mr. Muxtar Ablyazov. Such initiative should be taken at personal level.

J. GUE request to have two co-shadow rapporteurs

The GUE group was asked to choose only one shadow-rapporteur under the Rule 205a of European Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

K. Access to documents

The Coordinators took note of the following letters sent by the TAX3 Chair to:

- Commissioners Jourova and Moscovici
- Vladislav Goranov, Minister of Finance of Bulgaria, Chair of the ECOFIN

> Ms Fabrizia Lapecorella, Chair of the Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation

L. Time and date of next Coordinators' meeting

> Monday, 11 June 2018, 19.00 to 21.00, Strasbourg